Remission of tax on fishing stakes.

220. Mr. M. A. Sankunny.—Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds on which the general concession of tax is not given to the tax-payers of fishing stakes?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The fees fixed for the fishing stakes are almost concessional rates, regard being had to the magnitude of catch from them. The economic depression has not in any way affected the catch, nor has it produced a striking fall in the value of the catch sufficient to justify or call for a remission of license fees. The fact that the fishing stakes are administered by the Revenue Department is no argument for extending the Land Revenue remission to them unless it is proved that the stake holders have been hit hard by the depression and the consequent fall in prices to the same extent as the cultivators of land.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Hon'ble Member tell us whether the price of fish has not gone down since the economic depression began?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—There are some kinds of fish for which the price has gone down. There are some for which the prices have been enhanced, for instance, the bigger variety of fish which fetch more.

Fall in the catch of fishes in the back-waters.

221. Mr. M. A. Sankunni.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the extremely poor catch of fish by the Valans in the back-waters;

(b) if not, will the Government be pleased to make a hasty inquiry into the condition of the catch and find out the causes for the same?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) The catch in certain places is reported to be less than what it used to be some ten years back.

(b) No statistics are available to verify the condition of the catch.

The reasons for the fall so far as the Government are aware, are the dredging and reclamations in connection with the Harbour development, noise from the Motor vessels passing by the side of the stakes and the putting up of temporary bunds in

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